Extension of 4003/4004 Express upto New Delhi has also not been found feasible due to operational constraints including terminal facilities at New Delhi.

Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Railway Section

5209. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned in principle and are allocating funds for electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds already spent and progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the targetted date of completion of the electrification work of above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Road section of South Eastern Railway is covered in electrification projects of Kharagpur-Bhubneswar and Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam sections.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred upto 31.3.97. However, allocation of Rs. 46.53 crores has been made for these works in the budget for the year 97-98.

(d) The target for completion is March '2002.

AI's Share in International Traffic

5210. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady fall in Air India's share in International Traffic from and to India while other Airlines improved their position;

(b) the reasons for dismal performance of Air India; and

(c) the steps taken for boosting growth of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, its market share has come down from 24.5% in 1990 to 23.1% in 1995, as the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic.

(c) To increase its market share, Air India is taking steps to augment capacity, intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Expansion of Flights

5211. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India and Indian Airlines have plans to renew and expand their flights during 9th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific proposals in that regard for the year 1997-98; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

Air Bus-300 and Boeing-737 Aircraft

5212. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-Bus-300 and Boeing-737 aircraft which forms part of the fleet of Indian Airlines are only aging flying machines;

(b) if so, the period for which each such aircraft has been on wings, indicating their optimum safe flight period or mile-age of flights; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi

5213. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi for the convenience of the people of Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi, people have to go to Patna from remote places; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) 6 pairs of train including Rajdhani Expresses connect Gaya and Delhi. Introduction of a train between Gaya and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible due to operational including terminal/maintenance constraints at both Gaya